

WHITE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2004

A special meeting of the White County Board begun and holden this 10th day of August 2004 in the Courtroom of the White County Courthouse in the City of Carmi.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Dozier called the roll with Nelson, Ray, Mitchell, Trout and Wooten all present.

Chairman Wooten asked the members of the Board if they had received copies of the minutes of the previous meeting and was there any additions, changes or deletions. Mr. Trout made a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting are waived and the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as proposed in writing. Mrs. Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten asked for a motion to approve payment of all current bills. Mrs. Mitchell made a motion to pay all current bills, seconded by Ray. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Mr. Jack Bosaw, County Engineer, stated that E. T. Simonds was the low bidder on the Centerville road-resurfacing job and that contract should be awarded within the next week or so. Mr. Bosaw explained that the roadway would be resurfaced from the Burnt Prairie Township line to Bootjack School.

Mr. Roger Heckler, Director of the White County Ambulance Service is out of town, but he has submitted a written report to the Board.

Mr. Doug Maier, White County Sheriff, stated he had turned over \$71,030.00 in prisoner keep, \$3,411.88 in sheriff's fees, %50.00 DUI equipment, \$2,985.60 in inmate telephone commission, and \$276.00 in work release to the White County Treasurer. Sheriff Maier stated that the City/County jail was currently housing 96 inmates. Mr. Maier stated that the jail expense was higher than normal because two air conditioners were replaced, but one of those was struck by lightning and the insurance should cover part of the cost. Mr. Maier stated that the annual maintenance fee on the fingerprint machine had been paid and that cost is \$6,582.26. Sheriff Maier stated that J.J. Wittenborn was going to try to attend this meeting to give the Board an update on the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, but he had a conflict and was unable to attend. Mr. Maier stated that he had given him the statistics of the active of the Drug Task Force from 6/1/03 to 7/1/04. Sheriff Maier stated that the Task Force had dismantled 123 meth labs, 188 criminal arrests, 23 federal indictments, 80 firearms seized and 26 explosive devices recovered.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System Board meeting would be held on Monday, August 16, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

Chairman Wooten stated that the budget committee met prior to the Board meeting and each member should have received a copy of the tentative and preliminary budget for the 2005 fiscal year beginning December 1, 2004. Mr. Wooten stated that the tentative budget reflected \$170,000.00 more expenditures than revenue but last year the tentative reflected \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00 difference and with the cooperation of the elected and appointed officials the Board was able to pass a balanced budget. Mr. Wooten stated that

County was short approximately \$130,000.00 in revenue but that was better than this time last year when the projected income was short by around \$360,000.00. Mr. Wooten explained that the expenditures were around \$190,000.00 higher than was anticipated, but that has to do with capital expenditures which are one time expenses and by the end of the fiscal year those expenditures should fall in line with what was budgeted.

Chairman Wooten ask Doug Winter, a representative of the White County Farm Bureau if he had any comments for the Board. Mr. Winter stated that he was there to see the GIS demonstration. Chairman Wooten stated that demonstration would be held on August 30, 2004 at the recessed meeting.

Chairman Wooten stated that the County had advertised for bid for the appraisal of County buildings and had received two bids. The first bid was from Industrial Appraisal in the amount of \$5,610.00 for appraisal work on county buildings and inventory of fixed assets. The second bid was from Stinson appraisal in the amount of \$2825.00 for appraisal of county buildings. The two bids differ because of the fixed asset inventory, but the advertisement only stated for the appraisal of buildings. Mr. Ray made a motion to table awarding the bid until the August 30th recessed meeting to allow the board to study the two proposals.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider bids on a 2004 sports utility vehicle. Sheriff Maier stated that White County had received a grant for a new squad car in the amount of \$16,667.00. The conditions of the grant required the sheriff to advertise for bid and receive three bids. The sheriff stated that he received bids from Rice Automotive Group in the amount of \$22,597.00, and two bids from Thomas Dodge. One from Thomas Dodge in Highland in the amount of \$22,895.00 and the other Thomas Dodge of Orland Park in the amount of \$22,682.00. The sheriff stated that Rice Automotive Group was the lowest bidder. Sheriff Maier stated that the County would be responsible for matching the \$16,667.00 grant by a 25% match, which would be \$5,649.25. Sheriff Maier stated that the County Board had declared several vehicles excess equipment and some seized vehicles were also offered at auction and had raised \$7,145.00 which the grant match could be paid from plus the rest of the monies could be used to switch the lights over to the new squad. Sheriff Maier stated that the jail transport car that is currently in use has 217,000 miles on it and the squad car that the new Durango would replace only has 30,000 miles, which should save the county some money by not having to purchase a new transport vehicle. Mr. Ray made a motion to accept the bid of Rice Automotive Group, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to accept the resignation of Roger Heckler as Director of the White County Ambulance Service. Mr. Wooten explained that the resignation would not be effective until the Board hired is replacement. Mr. Wooten stated that the position had been advertised and the Board would recess this meeting to August 30th. Mr. Trout made a motion to accept the resignation of Roger Heckler, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the 2005 holiday calendar proposed by the Second Judicial Circuit Court. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the calendar, seconded by Trout. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten stated, that the White County Housing Authority notified him, that Mr. W. D. Norris's term has expired and he does not wish to serve another term. Mr. Ray made a motion to accept the resignation of W. D. Norris from the White County Housing Authority Board, seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed 5- 0 on roll call vote. Mr. Mike Ray stated that he would like to thank Mr. Norris for his 35 years of dedicated service to the Housing Authority.

Chairman Wooten stated that he had received an order from the Court asking that Jason Williams be re-appointed as Commissioner of the Half Moon Drainage District for a term that will expire on the first Tuesday of September 2005. Mr. Trout made a motion to re-appoint Jason Williams as Commissioner to Half Moon Drainage District. Motion seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item was consider the appointment of Ezra Millspaugh to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of W. D. Norris from the White County Housing Authority Board. Mr. Trout made a motion to appoint Ezra Millspaugh to the White County Housing Authority Board, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten introduced Mr. Charles Preston a White County resident and veteran who is proposing a VA hospital on the Grayville prison site. Mr. Preston stated that he has received tremendous support for the idea of a veteran's hospital, clinic and nursing home on the site that was to be used for the Grayville prison. Mr. Preston stated that he had the support of all the mayors in White County with the exception of one and he has been unable to make contact with him, because he is on vacation. Mr. Preston stated that he also has the support of the White County Economic Development Group, the American Legion and VFW organizations. Mr. Preston stated that the State has already started to development the prison site with sewer, lighting, electrical on the 247-acre location. There is no reason why the land cannot be developed for a veteran's hospital. Mr. Preston stated that he has a map showing locations of VA clinics and hospitals and once again Southern Illinois has been left out. A Veteran's hospital, clinic and nursing home would boost the economy of Southern Illinois while providing much needed benefits to the veterans of the tri-state area. In most instances the Veterans Administration is spending more money to keep their current veteran's nursing homes and hospitals maintained than it would cost to build new, because the other facilities are old and outdated. Mr. Preston stated that he is also in the process of circulating petitions and he has already received 3597 signatures. Mr. Preston stated that the goal is to get the Veterans Administration involved and in the support of the project. This project will have to be funded by the federal government and without their support it will not move forward. Mr. Preston stated that he had just heard from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs in which they applauded his efforts and acknowledged the need for more locations and updated facilities for the medical needs of veterans. Mr. Ray made a motion to adopt a resolution of support for a veteran's hospital to be built on the former Grayville prison site. Motion seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote. Mr. Trout stated that he was the County Board Member from District #5 which represented the area of the Grayville prison site and if he could be of any further assistance please contact him. Mr. Wooten thanked Mr. Preston for the presentation and asked that he keep the Board informed of the progress of the project and to please contact the Board if they can be of assistance.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel (White County Highway Department union organization) and pending litigation (Melissa McEwing Brown vs White County.) Motion seconded by Trout. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Mrs. Mitchell made a motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

Mrs. Mitchell made a motion to voluntarily recognize the organization of the White County Highway Department into Southern Illinois Labor's Union Local 1197. Motion seconded by Nelson. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote. Mrs. Mitchell explained that their was a majority of the employees of the Highway Department who are interested in becoming members of this union and this motion allows them to join rather

than have an election. This saves the county money. Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Wooten stated that this would allow the county and the union to begin bargaining a contract for those employees.

Chairman Wooten stated that this meeting would be recessed until Monday, August 30, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. here in the Courtroom to address the hiring of an Ambulance Service Director, consider bids on the appraisal of county buildings and to watch and have explained a Geographical Information System by the Sidwell Company.